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RESEARCH NOTE NC-182

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION, FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

1974

FOREST AREA IN MISSOURI COUNTIES, 1972

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ABSTRACT.--Missouri's commercial forest land totaled 12.4 million acres in 1972, 10.5 percent less than that reported in 1959. The largest losses occurred in the Prairie and Southwestern Ozark Units.

OXFORD: 524.61:64(778). KEY WORDS: commercial forest land, noncommercial forest land.

The latest forest survey of Missouri shows that 12.4 million acres or 28 percent of the land area is in commercial forests (land suitable for growing industrial timber products and not reserved from this type of use) (table 1).

One-third of the State's commercial forest land occurs in the more heavily forested Eastern Ozarks Unit. Here commercial forest land occupies two-thirds of the land area. Shannon County in this Unit has more commercial forest land (477,000 acres) than any other county in the State.

Commercial forest land declined 10.5 percent in the 13 yr between surveys (table 2). The largest drops occurred in the Prairie and Southwestern Ozarks Units. Much of this decline was caused by the conversion of forests to pasture and other agricultural uses. Another large loss resulted from the construction of highways and transmission and pipeline rights-of-way through timbered areas.

Noncommercial forest land totaled 554,100 acres in 1972. Of this amount, 256,100 acres are productive but reserved for uses other than timber production, such as parks and wildlife refuges. The remainder is forest land too poor to grow timber products suitable for industrial use.

Sampling error of area for this survey was $\pm$ 0.78 percent for the 12.4 million acres of commercial forest land. This, the third survey of Missouri, was conducted by the North Central Forest Experiment Station and the Missouri Department of Conservation. Other publications on timber volume, growth, and removals are being prepared and will be available in the near future.

Table 1.--*Area of land and forest land, by counties, Missouri, 1972*

Survey unit and county	All land[1]	All forest	Forest land[2]		Commercial forest as a percent of land area
			Non-commercial[3]	Commercial[4]	
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent
Eastern Ozarks					
Bollinger	397.5	203.5	1.8	201.7	51
Butler	457.8	173.9	5.8	168.1	37
Carter	323.9	270.6	18.8	251.8	78
Crawford	486.4	324.5	3.6	320.9	66
Dent	483.5	316.4	8.2	308.2	64
Iron	354.5	289.2	4.1	285.1	80
Madison	317.4	230.5	2.8	227.7	72
Oregon	501.8	323.0	6.6	316.4	63
Reynolds	523.1	436.5	13.5	423.0	80
Ripley	409.0	274.2	4.5	269.7	66
St. Francois	292.3	148.4	7.3	141.1	48
Shannon	639.4	518.4	41.4	477.0	75
Washington	486.4	359.0	4.0	355.0	73
Wayne	490.0	376.5	38.2	338.3	69
Total	6,163.0	4,244.6	160.6	4,084.0	66
Southwestern Ozarks					
Barry	501.0	197.1	14.5	182.6	36
Christian	362.9	136.7	8.3	128.4	35
Douglas	517.6	254.4	8.3	246.1	48
Howell	588.8	277.3	6.7	270.6	46
McDonald	345.6	170.6	3.7	166.9	48
Newton	402.5	105.9	2.3	103.6	26
Ozark	468.1	259.1	22.8	236.3	50
Stone	287.5	131.9	7.8	124.1	43
Taney	393.9	235.7	38.2	197.5	50
Texas	757.1	384.3	10.7	373.6	49
Webster	377.6	123.4	3.2	120.2	32
Wright	437.7	166.9	5.4	161.5	37
Total	5,440.3	2,443.3	131.9	2,311.4	42
Northwestern Ozarks					
Benton	470.5	200.2	33.6	166.6	35
Camden	409.6	230.9	17.6	213.3	52
Cedar	317.4	81.1	8.9	72.2	23
Dallas	343.7	131.2	5.0	126.2	37
Hickory	254.0	108.0	8.0	100.0	39
Laclede	492.8	204.2	9.0	195.2	40
Maries	335.8	143.6	6.5	137.1	41
Miller	384.0	165.4	13.0	152.4	40
Morgan	379.0	166.7	4.5	162.2	43
Phelps	433.3	221.1	8.4	212.7	49
Polk	410.9	87.1	3.7	83.4	20
Pulaski	352.3	183.5	7.9	175.6	50
St. Clair	446.2	148.0	24.9	123.1	28
Total	5,029.5	2,071.0	151.0	1,920.0	38
Prairie					
Adair	365.8	52.6	3.3	49.3	13
Andrew	278.9	16.2	.1	16.1	6
Atchison	351.5	14.0	.1	13.9	4
Audrain	442.9	29.3	.2	29.1	7
Barton	380.2	25.7	.1	25.6	7
Bates	538.4	49.5	.2	49.3	9
Buchanan	258.4	19.8	.1	19.7	8
Caldwell	275.2	17.8	.1	17.7	6
Carroll	446.0	27.1	.2	26.9	6
Cass	446.5	34.9	.4	34.5	8
Chariton	482.4	42.1	.2	41.9	9
Clark	323.6	53.6	.4	53.2	16
Clay	263.6	22.5	.5	22.0	8
Clinton	268.7	18.9	.4	18.5	7
Cooper	361.9	49.0	.4	48.6	13
Dade	322.6	49.1	10.0	39.1	12
Daviess	360.3	32.6	.3	32.3	9
DeKalb	270.7	13.9	.1	13.8	5
Gentry	312.3	25.9	.2	25.7	8
Greene	433.0	58.9	.4	58.5	14
Grundy	278.4	27.1	.7	26.4	9
Harrison	460.8	45.1	.4	44.7	10

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Survey unit and county	All land[1]	All forest	Forest land[2]		Commercial forest as a percent of land area
			Non-commercial[3]	Commercial[4]	
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent
Prairie (cont.)					
Henry	469.6	60.4	21.6	38.8	8
Holt	292.9	18.9	.1	18.8	6
Jackson	385.6	22.6	.1	22.5	6
Jasper	410.9	46.8	.4	46.4	11
Johnson	528.6	54.1	3.5	50.6	10
Knox	327.7	33.0	.3	32.7	10
Lafayette	404.2	22.0	.1	21.9	5
Lawrence	396.2	50.2	.7	49.5	12
Lewis	324.9	48.0	.5	47.5	15
Lincoln	400.1	86.0	6.6	79.4	20
Linn	398.4	30.5	1.2	29.3	7
Livingston	339.4	30.4	.1	30.3	9
Macon	520.7	63.9	.7	63.2	12
Marion	280.3	42.7	.6	42.1	15
Mercer	291.0	29.0	.3	28.7	10
Monroe	428.2	51.9	1.4	50.5	12
Nodaway	561.3	25.4	.1	25.3	5
Pettis	434.4	40.9	.3	40.6	9
Pike	435.9	93.0	.9	92.1	21
Platte	273.1	32.6	.3	32.3	12
Putnam	331.5	40.9	.4	40.5	12
Ralls	306.0	47.7	.4	47.3	15
Randolph	309.5	49.8	.6	49.2	16
Ray	366.8	38.8	.4	38.4	10
Saline	484.6	32.2	.7	31.5	7
Schuyler	195.8	13.5	.1	13.4	7
Scotland	282.2	21.4	.1	21.3	8
Shelby	320.8	35.2	.3	34.9	11
Sullivan	418.5	38.8	.3	38.5	9
Vernon	536.1	64.1	.4	63.7	12
Worth	170.9	12.5	.1	12.4	7
Total	19,548.2	2,002.8	62.4	1,940.4	10
Riverborder					
Boone	438.3	112.6	3.0	109.6	25
Caliaway	534.4	179.0	3.5	175.5	33
Cape Girardeau	367.3	91.1	3.7	87.4	24
Cole	245.7	79.8	1.9	77.9	32
Dunklin	347.5	20.1	--	20.1	6
Franklin	597.6	243.7	9.2	234.5	39
Gasconade	332.4	157.4	3.1	154.3	46
Howard	301.7	63.6	1.1	62.5	21
Jefferson	427.3	219.8	3.3	216.5	51
Mississippi	265.7	13.8	.9	12.9	5
Moniteau	268.0	61.1	1.5	59.6	22
Montgomery	341.7	104.4	2.3	102.1	30
New Madrid	434.8	15.5	--	15.5	4
Osage	388.9	174.3	4.1	170.2	44
Pemiscot	315.4	11.8	--	11.8	4
Perry	301.4	104.6	1.2	103.4	34
St. Charles	352.6	90.1	.5	89.6	25
St. Louis	358.8	68.9	2.8	66.1	18
Ste. Genevieve	319.6	156.6	4.8	151.8	47
Scott	269.5	18.0	--	18.0	7
Stoddard	526.8	46.1	--	46.1	9
Warren	272.9	125.1	1.6	123.5	45
Total	8,008.3	2,157.4	48.5	2,108.9	26
STATE TOTAL	44,189.3	12,919.1	554.4	12,364.7	28

[1]1960 Bureau of the Census estimates.

[2]Land at least 16.7 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or formerly having such tree cover; excludes lands currently developed for nonforest use such as urban or heavily settled residential or resort area, city parks, orchards, improved roads, or improved pasture lands. The minimum forest area classified was 1 acre. Roadside, streamside and shelterbelt strips of timber with crown width of at least 120 feet and unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forested areas if less than 120 feet in width were classified as forest.

[3]Unproductive forest land incapable of yielding crops of industrial wood because of adverse site conditions, and productive public forest land withdrawn from commercial timber production through statute or administrative regulation.

[4]Forest land producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood and not withdrawn from timber utilization by statute or administrative regulation.

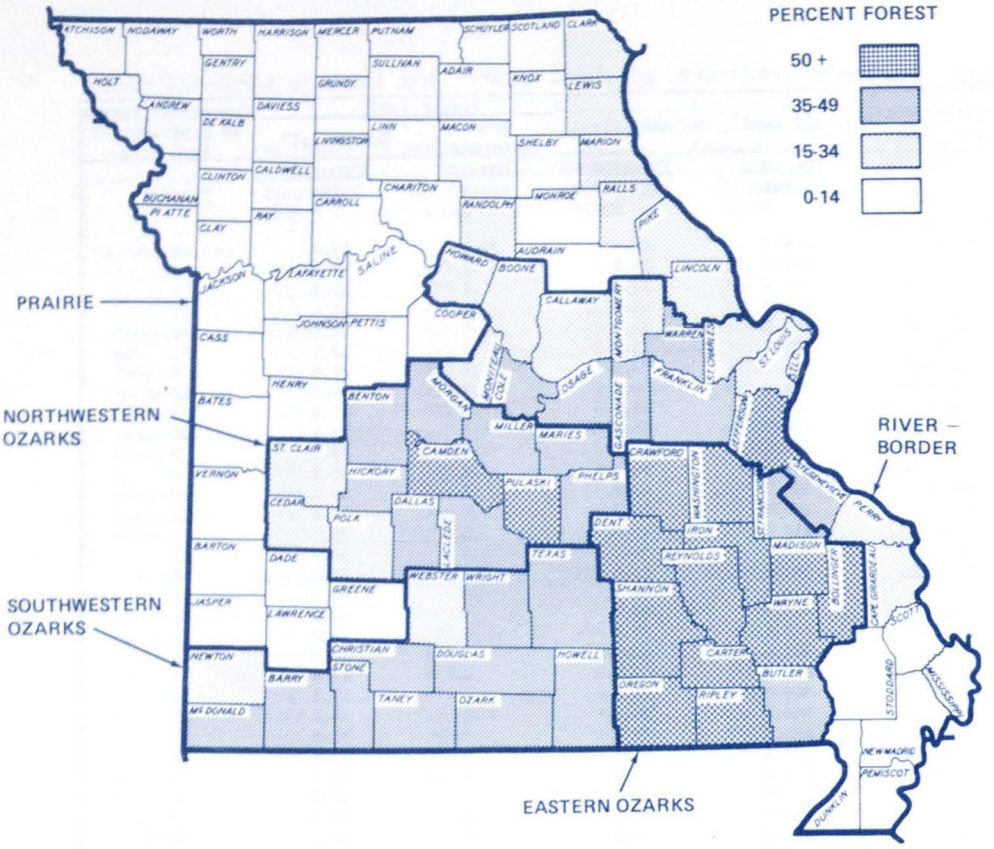

Figure 1.--*Commercial forest area as a percent of land area, by county, Missouri, 1972.*

Table 2.--*Area of commercial forest land, Missouri*

Forest Survey Unit	Survey year 1959[1]	Survey year 1972	Change since 1959
	Thousand acres		*Percent*
Eastern Ozarks	4,259.4	4,084.0	- 4.1
Southwestern Ozarks	2,815.4	2,311.4	-17.9
Riverborder	2,188.4	2,108.9	- 3.6
Northwestern Ozarks	2,146.3	1,920.0	-10.5
Prairie	2,408.8	1,940.4	-19.4
State total	13,818.3	12,364.7	-10.5

[1]The estimates for 1959 have been adjusted to conform to the classification system used in 1972.

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